

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



F L O R I D A H U M A N I T I E S . O R G

## 2021 FLORIDA HUMANITIES

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### OUR MISSION

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Florida Humanities, the statewide affiliate to the National Endowment for the Humanities, serves to preserve, promote and share the history, literature, culture and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities and their state.

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**ON THE COVER:** Zora Neale Hurston scholar Rae Chesny leads a walking tour of Eatonville, Florida as part of the Orange County Library System's event, "Zora Neale Hurston: The Storyteller and Her Town." It was hosted by the Eatonville Branch and funded by a Florida Humanities Community Project Grant. Photo by Amanda Murphy/OCLS

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and 2021 was just such a time.

Despite the challenges and hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Florida Humanities team found itself in the unique position of distributing an unprecedented flow of funding in support of cultural organizations throughout our great state.

As Florida's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, we received \$1.88 million through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act passed by Congress in March, 2021, resulting in our largest grant initiative ever. Though the enormous effort to award these funds were completed in FY21, the actual awards weren't funded until the beginning of FY22. These awards will be reflected in the 2022 Annual Report.

The ARP funding provided much-needed general operating support to humanities-focused organizations all

over the state — from the Florida Keys History and Discovery Foundation, to the African American Museum of the Arts in Deland, the St. Augustine Film Society, and the Pensacola Lighthouse Association.

Support went to a total of 129 museums, archives, historic sites, and other nonprofits, with a focus on small and medium-sized organizations. Eighty percent of those that received ARP funding from Florida Humanities have annual budgets of less than \$500,000.

Most importantly, grant recipients reported that nearly 400 jobs were saved thanks to the funding they received through Florida Humanities. Meanwhile, they managed to serve an audience of nearly 6.5 million, delivering the kind of programs that help Floridians better understand their world and themselves. Extraordinary resilience by any measure.

Florida Humanities also distributed nearly \$500,000 to universities,

public media stations, and nonprofits through other funding channels, and once again partnered with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program to bring exhibits on water and democracy to communities from Miami to Tallahassee.

Programs developed by Florida Humanities had their own impact, with thousands of people using our Florida Stories Walking Tours app, and benefiting from our English for Families literacy program, and Florida Talks speakers program.

It was a busy year for our small, but mighty organization, on behalf of which I offer heartfelt thanks to the many donors, supporters, and partners who, through the humanities, strive to offer insight and understanding into Florida's history unfolding before us. We are proud to be a part of such important work, and to help Florida's cultural institutions engage the people they serve at a time of reemergence and hope.

Thomas Luzier



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The many accomplishments outlined in these pages document part of my first year as Executive Director, and I am very proud to have been a part of this dynamic work.

I joined Florida Humanities in May 2021. At that time, we'd lived through the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, clinging to the hope that 2021 would bring much-needed normalcy. Although some pre-COVID routines slowly returned, the world was still far from what we once knew. As we all settled into the new realities of daily living with a pandemic, Florida Humanities found a way to remain connected and fully engaged with our funded partners, donors and supporters.

Whether it was a virtual panel discussion, a documentary or an art exhibit, all of the programs embodied our mission to preserve, promote and share the history, literature, culture and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities and their state.

Reflecting on this year, I marvel at the vast impact this organization has

on Florida. Faced with unprecedented times, some of the cultural institutions of this state faced dire challenges, but with the help of Florida Humanities, museums, libraries, historical societies, universities and other partners continued their programming.

In 2021, Florida Humanities provided nearly \$500,000 in funding to 127 Florida cultural organizations during the Nov. 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021 Fiscal Year. That included our inaugural Broadcasting Hope grants for public media outlets and supporting public programs on the environment, civic engagement and marginalized communities.

Through our Community Project Grants and Greater Good: Humanities in Academia Grants, we supported programs on topics ranging from race relations to the digital revolution and southern food and culture.

Democracy Reignited, our civic engagement initiative, flourished with our partner, The Village Square. We placed on center stage questions about our role and responsibilities as

citizens of our state and country, and the nature of truth, perspective and relativism.

Our team also worked diligently to distribute \$1.88 million in federal funding—Florida Humanities' largest grant initiative to date—received through the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

In the past year, despite enormous challenges, Florida Humanities shared captivating stories of our fellow Floridians, considered what it means to contribute to a more perfect union and provided a lens to better see and understand Florida. There were a few challenges, but we persevered and our resilience rose to the top.

Our work deepens the understanding of our humanity, and with our donors, our partners, and our incredibly talented staff, we will continue to unearth the stories of Florida that inspire, move and resonate.

Nashid Madyun

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

## BY THE NUMBERS

\$198,400

in Community Project Grants were awarded to **44** cultural organizations

\$93,800

in **26** Greater Good: Humanities in Academia Grants to colleges and universities



**5** Emergency Management Workshops

**10** Podcasts with **1,800** listeners

\$75,000

awarded through Broadcasting Hope: Public Media Grants to **four stations** for TV and radio productions



71

Florida Talks Programs

viewed by more than **4,700** people

14

Charlie Awards from the Florida Magazine Association

3

library systems with English for Families programs

36

Florida Stories Walking Tours app downloaded more than **5,000 times**

**“We are most grateful for the care and concern of Florida Humanities for the future of cultural-based nonprofits in Florida. Your support means the world to us.”**

**– Marco Island Historical Society**



A Florida Humanities Community Project Grant supported two panel discussions hosted by Sephardi Voices, an organization that created an audio-visual archive of south Florida Jews with roots in Islamic lands. This image from the Sephardi Voices collection shows the descendants of Rabbi Shimon Labi, whose family had roots in Spain and Morocco.

**“We could not do what we do without your continued support. We know that the programming our partnership delivers to our community is valuable and appreciated.”**

**– Ormond Beach Historical Society**



# Museum on MAIN STREET



Museum on Main Street is a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Florida Humanities to bring traveling exhibitions and engaging public programs to small towns and underserved communities across our state. With its impassioned focus on local history, education and community redevelopment, Museum on Main Street is one of the Smithsonian's most

inspirational and enduring outreach programs. The following venues each received a \$5,000 grant from Florida Humanities to host exhibits and complementary public programs in 2021:

- **Haitian Heritage Museum (Miami)**—*Voices & Votes: Democracy in America*
- **Florida Historic Capitol Museum (Tallahassee)**—*Voices & Votes: Democracy in America*
- **Citrus County Historical Society (Inverness)**—*Water/Ways*
- **Apalachicola Arsenal Museum (Chattahoochee)** — *Water/Ways*
- **MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center (Port St. Lucie)**—*Water/Ways*

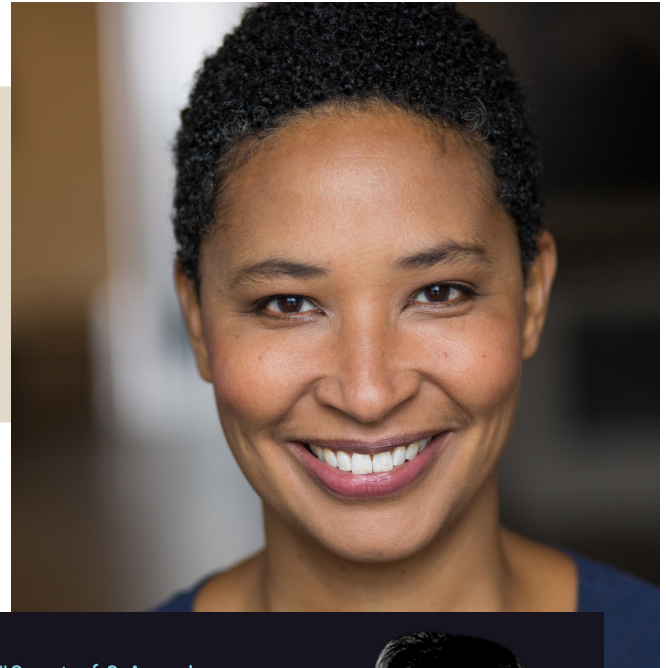




# Democracy Reignited

## INITIATIVE

Our multi-year civic engagement initiative with **The Village Square** supported six virtual programs with an audience of more than 13,000 people. Among the noted participating authors and scholars was Harvard professor, ethicist and political theorist **Dr. Danielle Allen** (top photo). We also supported the production of 10 episodes of the Village SquareCast podcast series “*Created Equal and Breathing Free*” reaching more than 1,800 listeners. Florida Humanities also partnered with **Braver Angels** to host five virtual workshops designed to help “red” and “blue” participants better understand one another’s positions and discover their shared values. These programs were attended by nearly 200 participants.



“Democracy Reignited is bringing diverse and inspiring thinkers who light our way forward. They aren’t just arguing the righteousness of the big ideas of democracy, they’re showing us how to get it done — together.”

-Liz Joyner, Founder and President, The Village Square

# English for FAMILIES



Photos by Amanda Murphy/Orange County Library System

English for Families is a multi-session series of interactive classes for parents and children that focus on developing English vocabulary and literacy skills through the reading and discussion of award-winning children’s books. The program is designed specifically to improve the language proficiency of individuals whose native language is not English by providing essential reading strategies needed for school-age children to achieve success in the classroom while also developing adults’ basic language skills. The following libraries received grant funding from Florida Humanities to host programming in 2021:

- **Orange County Library System**
- **Broward County Library**
- **Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative**

# Florida TALKS



Florida Talks, one of Florida Humanities' longest-running programs, offers nonprofit organizations across Florida an opportunity to host thought-provoking and engaging presentations by experts and scholars from our distinguished Speakers' Bureau. Programs are free for the public to attend and are presented in partnership with civic organizations, museums, historical societies, public libraries and other non-profit groups statewide.

**71 virtual and in-person programs were attended by more than 4,700 people**

**"Florida has such a rich history many of us do not know. This presentation has motivated me to learn more, research, and visit these places."**

**—Florida Talks Attendee, "Voices of Florida: Ditch of Dreams"**





## FORUM MAGAZINE

FORUM magazine was the recipient of **14 Charlie Awards** from the Florida Magazine Association which annually recognizes excellence in magazine publishing across Florida:

**Best Overall:** Magazine - Gold award

**Best Overall:** Writing - Silver award

**Best Writing:** Feature - Gold & Silver awards

**Best Writing:** Public Service Coverage - Silver award

**Best Writing:** Department - Silver award

**Best Writing:** Service Feature - Bronze award

**Best Writing:** In-Depth Reporting - Gold & Silver awards

**Best Writing:** Editorial/Commentary/Opinion - Gold award

**Best Writing:** Feature Headlines - Gold award

**Best Photography:** Photo Essay/Series - Gold award

**Best Photography:** Cover - Silver award

**Best Design:** Typography - Gold award

**Best Special Theme or Show Issue:** Gold award



"I made my first investment in Florida Humanities to keep the magazine coming and the Zoom connections alive. The magazine's timely topics and excellent journalism by a diverse group of professional writers have helped me better understand myself and the history of Florida, raised my curiosity and even fed my soul."

- Donor Joe Mariano



*The Little Haiti Cultural Complex is featured in the “Miami, Little Haiti” tour on the Florida Stories Walking Tours app developed by Florida Humanities. Photo courtesy of VISIT FLORIDA.*

## *Florida Stories* WALKING TOURS

Our downloadable walking tour app allows users to discover the fascinating history, rich culture and remarkable architecture of Florida towns, both big and small. Connected via a statewide platform, the tours create sustainable cultural tourism products that increase knowledge and appreciation of local history. **The app includes 36 tours of unique Florida communities from the Panhandle to the Keys and was downloaded more than 5,000 times in 2021.**



# Community PROJECT GRANTS



Florida Humanities awarded **\$198,400 in Community Project Grants to 44 cultural organizations** for humanities programming that promote civic engagement, spark thoughtful community dialogue, and reflect on the human experience across Florida.

These competitive grants provide up to \$5,000 to nonprofits and public institutions across Florida to develop and implement public programs that meet the needs of their communities. At their core, these grants provide communities the opportunity to consider the past and reflect on the future of the Sunshine State. Discover below the grants awarded by region in 2021.

## Panhandle Region

**Gadsden Arts, Inc. (Gadsden)** “Clyde Butcher: America the Beautiful” — \$5,000

**Pensacola Museum of Art (Escambia)**

“Revolutionary Ripples: Caribbean History, Contemporary Art” — \$5,000

**The South City Foundation, Inc. (Leon)** “Soul of South Side Festival” — \$5,000



The “Clyde Butcher: America the Beautiful” exhibit at the Gadsden Arts Center and Museum was supported with a \$5,000 Community Project Grant.

## East Central Region & North Central Region

**Association to Preserve Eatonville Community (Orange)** “Community Conversations: A 3-Part Series on Race and Economic Realities in 21st Century America” — \$5,000

**Bethune Cookman University (Volusia)**

“Community Engagement with the Bethune Cookman University Oral History Collection (BCU OHC)” — \$4,000

**Caribbean American Cultural Group Inc. (Saint Lucie)** “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration of Equality” — \$5,000

**Community Healing Project (Volusia)** “The Autobiography Of Malcolm X: A Series on Race Relations in America” — \$5,000

**Historical Society of Central Florida (Orange)** “Giants, Dragons & Unicorns: The World of Mythic Creatures” — \$5,000

**Indian River State College (Saint Lucie)** “Turning Digital: Humanities and the Digital Revolution” — \$5,000

**Orange County Library District (Orange)** “Zora Neale Hurston: The Storyteller and Her Town” — \$5,000

**Ormond Beach Historical Society (Volusia)**

“Ormond Beach Historical Society Speaker Series” — \$4,000

**Palm Coast Historical Society and Museum (Flagler)** “2022 – Palm Coast Speaker Series” — \$5,000

**Platform Art, Inc. (Polk)** “Visual Narratives of History and Heritage: A Speaker Series on Florida and the Spanish-American War” — \$5,000

**Volusia County Public Library (Volusia)** “Anti-Racism Community Conversation Kits” — \$3,000

**Lake Wales History Museum/City of Lake Wales (Polk)** “Lake Wales African-American Archive Project” — \$5,000

**Valencia College Foundation (Orange)** “Valencia Voices: Oral Histories of Immigration in Osceola” — \$4,200



“Zora Neale Hurston: The Storyteller and Her Town,” at the Orange County Library System’s Eatonville Branch, was supported by a \$5,000 Community Project Grant.

**Stetson University (Volusia)** “Burrow Press Literary Events Series” — \$3,800

**The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum (Duval)** “I Lived Here As Well Phase II” — \$5,000

**Young Performing Artists (Sumter)** “Let’s Talk Reparations” — \$5,000





Portrait of Cynthia Kaplan Shamash, Iraqi Jewish Voices exhibition (by Liam Sharp).  
Sephardi Voices is a recipient of a 2021 Community Project Grant.

# Community PROJECT GRANTS



## South Florida Region

**Ayiti Community Trust (Miami-Dade)** “Ayiti Connect” — \$5,000

**The College of the Florida Keys (Monroe)** “CFK Poetics” — \$5,000

**Florida Memorial University, Social Justice Institute (Miami-Dade)** South Florida Social Justice Common Read (SFSJCR) — \$5,000

**Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach (Palm Beach)** “Southern Foodways and the Cultures that Shape Southern Food” — \$2,500

**Miami Beach Gay Pride (Miami-Dade)** “Legacy Couples Project: 400+ Years of LGBTQ Love” — \$5,000

**Miami Center for Racial Justice (Miami-Dade)** “#ItStartsWithMeMiami: The Power of Historical Dialogue to Elevate Community/Police Relations” — \$5,000

**Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. (Miami-Dade)** “My Name is Maryan’ Film and Discussion Series” — \$5,000

**Nova Southeastern University Lifelong Learning Institute (Broward)** “NSU Lifelong Learning Institute Community, Intergenerational Lecture Series” — \$3,000 NSU Lifelong Learning Institute received funding for an eight-part lecture series focused on civics and democracy.

**Old Dillard Foundation (Broward)** “Remembering the Past for Therein Lies the Future” Oral Histories Project — \$5,000

**Opa-locka Community Development Corporation (Miami-Dade)** “Juneteenth on Ali Baba Avenue” — \$5,000

**Patricia & Phillip Frost Art (Miami-Dade)** “Documenting History, Acknowledging a Legacy: Miami Black Arts Workshop Community Conversation” — \$5,000

**Sephardi Voices USA, Inc. (Miami-Dade)** “Legacies of the Spanish Inquisition: Florida’s Converso & Sephardi Jews in Conversation” — \$1,600

**Serena Schreiber Stories – Florida Atlantic University (Palm Beach)** “When You Move, I Move: Community Engagement on Climate Gentrification” — \$1,600

**Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab (Miami-Dade)** “Miami Life: Unpacking Difficult Stories from Our Past” — \$5,000

**Yiddishkayt Initiative, Inc. (Broward)** “YI Love Yiddishfest” — \$5,000

“The program was inspiring and spellbinding, juxtaposing spiritual meditation and readings with iconic MLK, Jr. quotes and remembrances as well as photos projected of known freedom leaders, dead and alive... I was emotionally impacted by the program.”

—Attendee, Caribbean American Cultural Group, Inc.’s “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration of Equality” program, funded through a Community Project Grant

# Community PROJECT GRANTS

## West Central Region

### **Dunedin History Museum (Pinellas)**

"Dunedin's African American Experience; Permanent digital/Oral History Exhibit and Documentary" — \$5,000

### **The Florida Holocaust Museum (Pinellas)**

"My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past" — \$5,000

### **The Franciscan Center (Hillsborough)**

"50 Years of Tampa's Franciscan Center: The Sisters' Legacy Serving Florida's Poor and Underserved" — \$5,000

### **Friends of Jack Kerouac House (Pinellas)**

"Tour de Kerouac Community Bicycling Tour" — \$4,500

**Heritage Village (Pinellas)** "Shared Heritage in Pinellas (SHIP) Travelling Exhibit" — \$5,000

### **MacDonald Training Center**

**(Hillsborough)** "BUILDING COMMUNITY: Florida Stories to Inspire and Engage Learners with Varying Abilities" — \$2,500

### **Pioneer Florida Museum Association**

**(Pasco)** "Florida's Seminole Wars: A Living History Event" — \$5,000

**Realize Bradenton (Manatee)** "Riverwalk Outdoor Family Reading Room Grand Opening" — \$4,700

### **Reflections of Manatee (Manatee)**

"Cosmopolitan Frontier: Cuban Fisherfolk, Freedom Seekers, Seminoles, and Women in Florida" — \$4,000

### **University of South Florida Department of Anthropology (Hillsborough)**

"Monuments, Markers, and Memory 2021 Symposium Series" — \$5,000







# Broadcasting Hope

## PUBLIC MEDIA GRANTS

In its inaugural “Broadcasting Hope” Public Media Grants, Florida Humanities awarded **\$75,000 to four stations** to support TV and radio productions that highlight historical racial injustices and inspire courageous conversations to broaden perspectives, foster unity and shape change.

### \$20,000

**WGCU – Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation (Lee)**  
“With a Made Up Mind”

Exploring the history of African American voter suppression in Southwest Florida.

### \$15,000

**WPBT – South Florida PBS (Palm Beach)** “Wade in the Water: A Community Conversation”

A public engagement event featuring filmmaker Cathleen Dean on the film, *Wade in the Water: Drowning in Racism*.

### \$20,000

**WUFT FM – University of Florida (Alachua)** “Evoking the Complexity of Black Experiences in Florida through Afrofuturism”

Six 30-minute podcast series complemented by animated vignettes and educational resources to engage underserved communities in reimagining Florida history and envisioning a different future.

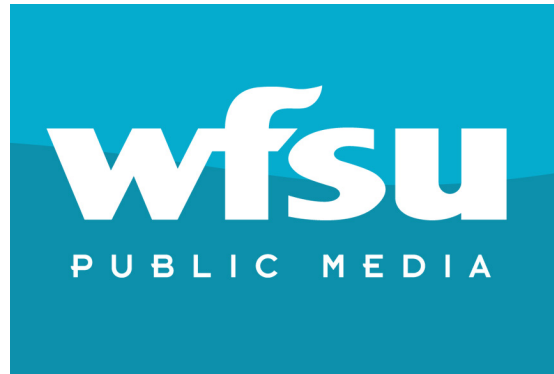
### \$ 20,000

**WUSF – University of South Florida (Hillsborough)** “WUSF – The History of Now: Through Our Voices”

WUSF will document the COVID-19 experience from the viewpoint of BIPOC Florida residents, giving a historical perspective to the pandemic and postpandemic.



# *Special* INITIATIVE GRANTS



Florida Humanities awarded a **\$25,000** special initiative grant to WFSU for “Integration Injustice: The Resegregation of Tallahassee,” a multimedia project that includes a podcast, video and community conversations about the historical and current racial challenges facing the Tallahassee-area community.

## *Emergency Management* WEBINARS

With continued support from Florida Humanities, the **Florida Association of Museums Foundation** hosted a series of virtual webinars designed to assist cultural organizations of all sizes prepare for and respond to a variety of emergencies from hurricanes and floods to the pandemic. Partnering organizations included FEMA’s Heritage Emergency Task Force, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, and the Society of Florida Archivists. Five workshops were attended by more than 400 people.

# *Greater Good:* HUMANITIES IN ACADEMIA

Florida Humanities awarded **\$93,800** in **26 Greater Good: Humanities in Academia Grants** to colleges and universities for programming that connects diverse audiences within and beyond the campus and inspires conversations around Florida history, heritage, and culture.

Eckerd College, Ancient Studies Program (Pinellas)  
Flagler College, Department of History (Saint Johns)  
Florida A&M University, Department of History and Political Science (Leon)  
Florida A&M University, Meek-Eaton Black Archives, Research Center, and Museum (Leon)  
Florida Atlantic University, Department of English (Palm Beach)  
Florida Atlantic University, Department of History (Palm Beach)  
Florida International University, Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment (Miami-Dade)  
Florida International University, Center for Women's and Gender Studies (Miami-Dade)  
Florida International University, Wolfsonian Humanities Lab (Miami-Dade)  
Florida State University, Department of English (Leon)  
Florida State University, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics (Leon)  
New College of Florida, Division of Humanities (Sarasota)  
Nova Southeastern University, Humanities Center (Broward)  
University of Central Florida, Center for Humanities and Digital Research (Orange)  
University of Central Florida, Department of English (Orange)  
University of Central Florida, Department of Philosophy, Humanities and Cultural Studies Program (Orange)  
University of Central Florida, Department of Writing and Rhetoric (Orange)  
University of Central Florida, RICHES Program (Orange)  
University of Miami, Center for the Humanities (Miami-Dade)  
University of North Florida, Digital Humanities Institute (Duval)  
University of North Florida, Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville (Duval)  
University of South Florida, Department of Women's & Gender Studies (Hillsborough)  
University of South Florida, Florida Studies Program (Hillsborough)  
University of South Florida, Humanities Institute (Pinellas)  
University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum (Hillsborough)  
University of West Florida, West Florida Historic Preservation Inc. (Escambia)



# CELEBRATING OUR GROWING SUPPORT

Florida Humanities would like to acknowledge the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that made contributions during our 2021 Fiscal Year (11/1/20–10/31/21). **Thank you!**

Donors marked below with a heart (♥) are members of Florida Humanities' "Sustainer Circle." Sustainers make monthly, automatically recurring contributions to Florida Humanities, putting their dollars to work supporting our partners and our programs throughout the year.

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# CELEBRATING OUR GROWING SUPPORT

## \$125 - \$249 CONT'D

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Florida Humanities would also like to recognize the generous in-kind support of our board members and other friends. We have attempted to ensure the accuracy of this report. If we have misrepresented or omitted a contribution, please contact our office at 727-873-2002 or

# EXTRACTED AUDITED

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 2021 BALANCE SHEET

#### ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$1,885,275
Grant Receivables	\$217,334
Prepaid Expenses	\$14,806
Gifted Facilities	\$252,596
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,370,011</b>

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$68,185
Grants Payable	\$227,523
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Without donor restrictions	\$1,807,622
With donor restrictions	\$266,681
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,370,011</b>

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

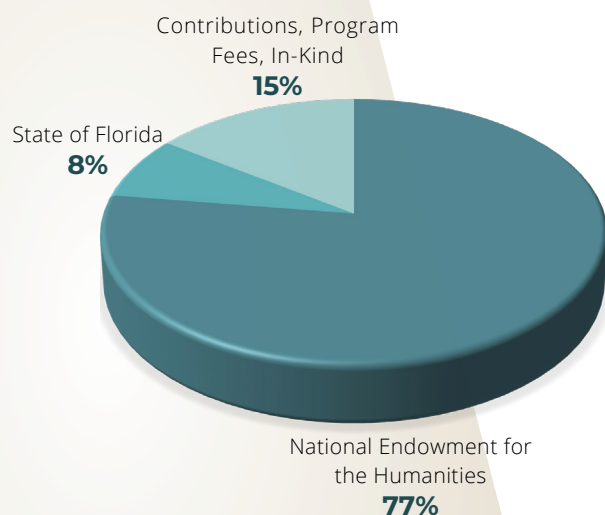
#### OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$1,522,038
State of Florida	\$151,417
Contributions, Program Fees, In-Kind	\$296,021
<b>Total operating support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,969,476</b>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,446,813
Management	\$383,756
Fundraising	\$107,064
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>\$1,937,633</b>

### REVENUES



### EXPENDITURES

